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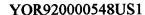
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What is claimed is:

- 1 / 1. A transfer tool for the collection and transporting of a spilled material from a spillage area
- 2 comprising:
- a deformable substrate member having deposited on the surface thereof a coating of a
- 4 material having a high affinity for said spilled material.
- 2. The transfer tool of claim 1 wherein said spilled material is mercury.
- 3. The transfer tool of claim 2 wherein said deformable substrate member with said
- 2 coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated members taken
- from the group of a contacting quantity of particles, weven and matted filaments, metal
- 4 powders and particle sponges.

4. The transfer tool of claim 3 wherein said deformable substrate member with said

- 2 coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated metal members
- in at least one of particle or filamentary form and taken from the group of copper, zinc and
- 4 silver.
- 5. The transfer tool of claim 4 wherein said coating of a material having a high affinity for
- 2 said spilled material is gold.
- 1 6. In the transferring of spilled material through the use of an intermediate absorber
- 2 member for the spilled material,
- 3 the improvement comprising:



- a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of
- 5 particles and a filamentry arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated
- 6 with a thin coating of a material having a high affinity for said spilled material.
- 7. The improvement of claim 6 wherein said spilled material is mercury.
- 1 8. The improvement of claim 7 wherein said material having a high affinity for said
- 2 spilled material is gold.
- 1 9. The improvement of claim 8 wherein the material in said deformable absorber are
- of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.
- 1 10. The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least one braid of
- 2 copper wires.
 - 11 In the handling of spilled material through transfer from the spillage location,
- 2 (the improvement comprising:
 - the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a material that
- 4 has a high affinity for said spilled material.
- 1 12. The improvement of claim 11/wherein said deformable absorber member is at least
- 2 one of a quantity of contacting particles and intertwined filaments that impart a wicking
- 3 capability with respect to a spillage in liquid form.

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- 1 13. The improvement of claim 12 wherein said deformable absorber member is at least
- 2 one braid of woven copper wires.
- 1 14. The improvement of claim 13 wherein said deformable absorber member is
- 2 contacting quantity of partieles supported in an inert tubular holder.
- 1 15. The improvement of claim 12 wherein said spilled material is mercury and said
- 2 elements of said deformable absorber member are coated with gold

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